Strike by SBI employees

†3210. SHRI ABU ASHIM AZMI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of country-wide strike of the State Bank of India employees on the economy of the country and to what extent Government have suffered loss of revenue due to the strike;

(b) the details of demands of the Bank employees and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the concrete steps Government have taken to ensure that no inconvenience is caused to the general public due to the strike of Bank of employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) It is not possible to quantify the financial loss to the economy and to the Government due to the strike.

(b) The main demands of the SBI employees were as follows:

(i) the pension ceiling needs a comprehensive review to provide for 50% of the last pay drawn:

(ii) commutation on par with the industry-level;

(iii) index linked D.A. as available in the industry; and

(iv) family pension as available in the industry.

As per the agreement on 9.4.2006 the revised pension payable would be as under:

(x) employees/officers having pensionable pay upto Rs. 21040/- + POP, if any: @ 50%

(y) employees/officers having pensionable pay exceeding (x) above: @ 40%

(c) Banks have been advised to take steps which *inter alia* include, approaching local administration/police authorities for all necessary help in keeping branches open and avoiding disruptions etc. as also, taking

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

appropriate action against the erring employees. Further, Banks have been advised to take appropriate steps for putting in place a suitable contingency plan to deal with the eventuality of a strike, in future.

Vigilance on use of official stationery

3211. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the huge wastage of official stationery items in Government offices and the fact that crores of rupees can be saved if a strict vigilance on the use of official stationery is kept;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Expenditure on stationery generally forms part of "office expenses" which is controlled through budgetary ceilings. Ministry of Finance has been from time to time emphasizing the need to observe utmost economy in Government expenditure. Under Rule 64 of the General Financial Rules, the Secretary in-charge of a Ministry/Department is responsible to *inter alia,* ensure control on wasteful expenditure. Beyond this, there are no specific instructions specially covering stationery items. Hence, this is a matter in which individual Ministries/Departments have to take necessary action.

Disbursal of loans under PMRY to Andhra Pradesh

3212. SHRIMATI N.P DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2299, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th March, 2006 and state:

(a) what are the reasons for not disbursing even 50 per cent of nearly 42,000 applications in 2004-05 and 18,000 in 2005-06 submitted under PMRY during 2004-05 and 2005-2006 (up to December, 2005) in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) what is the criteria followed in finalizing the applications;

(c) the amount sanctioned under PMRY to the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last five years, year-wise; and